R.C. Burleigh Papers

Osborne

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FILE

PIONEER SKETCHES AND FAMILY REMINISCENCES

The following narrative of events and family incidents was gleaned principally from my grandfather, Nathaniel Osborne, who became totally blind at the age of seventy-seven years,-from Sergt. John Love, his comrade during the war of 1812, who also became totally blind in his closing years, both of whom it became my duty when a boy to lead around in their visiting expeditions among old friends and neighbours,-from the late Rev. Dr. George Young of the Manitoba Methodist Conference, who was my first cousin, and from my own revered mother.

The writer was born September 10th, 1835, on what is known as "Hickory Highlands" on the borders of the Bay of Quinte, Prince Edward County. The district got its name on account of the number of hickory trees which grew in that region. In the early days many families were known to gather a store of from three to five bushels of hickory nuts for the winter season.

The Campbells of Adolphustown.

No [They named me after Lieut. Alexander Campbell of the 42nd Regiment (Black Watch), who was born at Inverary Castle, Scotland, and who emigrated with his family to the United States in 1756 and settled at Schenectady, N.Y.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary war he became a pronounced Royalist and after having his property confiscated and being imprisoned he was driven from the United States, reaching Montreal with his family, with all his belongings in a wagon, and settling at Beauport. (See Ontario Archives Second Report). In 1784 he came to Adolphustown with Capt. Grass's contingent, where he settled on lands granted to Royalists by the British Government. His family consisted of one son and seven daughters. His son, Archibald, was also of the age requisite to draw lands, settled on Lot 19, Con.5, and served as Township Clerk during 1795-6-7 and 8 inclusive. His son, Archibald, 2nd, was prominent in minicipal matters for many years. Another son, Alexander, was appointed second postmaster of Napanee, held that office and was a prominent merchant in Napanee for many years. He built the "Campbell House," also "Lorne Castle," a palatial private residence on the banks of the Napanee River, a short distance below the town. Gibbs Campbell, a grandson of Archibald, Sr., went to Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard some years ago, engaged in the whale fisheries and became wealthy. Archibald Campbell, Sr., died in 1849. At his funeral, which I attended, service was conducted by the Rev. John Black, an aged and eccentric but pious and highly respected old Methodist minister, known as "Uncle Johnny Black." He delivered his discourse standing in the doorway of the old mansion, while the groups of sorrowing friends and neighbours occupied the lawn in front.

Of the seven daughters of Alexander Campbell, Mary, the eldest, married the Hon. Thomas Ridout, who was Surveyor-General of Canada for many years. He had been a captive in the Shawnee Indian tribe of Ohio for several months. His son, Thos. G. Ridout, was appointed Deputy Assistant Commissary-General during the war of 1812 and later became cashier of the Bank of Upper Canada, holding this office for many years. Another son was George Ridout. Capt. J.G. Ridout, William and Donald are descendants. The late Lady Edgar, author of "Ten Years of Upper Canada in Peace and War," "Life of General Brock" (Makers of Canada Series), and "A Colonial Governor in Maryland" (Horatio Sharpe, 1753-1773) was a daughter of Com.-Gen. Thos. G. Ridout.

Annie married Wm. Radenhurst, Deputy Surveyor-General. His son, Lieut. Tom Radenhurst, was prominent in the war of 1812 and took part in the capture of the U.S. gunboats Scorpion and Tigress near St. Joseph's Island, Lake Huron. The late G.A. Radenhurst, Police Magistrate of Barrie, was a descendant.

Catharine married Capt. Grant, who was active in the war of 1812, but later retired to Scotland. Their sons were prominent lawyers in the pioneer days of Toronto. Miss Annie Grant, the last descendant of the family, died in that city a few years ago.

Jeanette became the bride of Elisha Miller, a staunch Royalist of the Capt. Grass contingent, who settled on Col. Young's allotment at East Lake, Prince Edward County. One of their sons was Rev. Gilbert Miller, who became missionary to the Indians at Coldwater and Couchiching in 1832. A grandson, Rev. J.W. Miller, became President of the Michigan Conference of the M.E. Church. Elisha attained the venerable age of ninety-six years.

Sarah (my grandmother) became the wife of Sergt.-Major Nathaniel Osborne, who was Master of Transportation during the relief expedition from Kingston to Mackinaw under command of Capt. Andrew Bulger during the war of 1812. One of his sons was Rev. John C. Osborne who, as a Methodist minister, rode the circuits of the wilderness in early days. Rev. H.S. Osborne of Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Toronto, is a grandson.

Elizabeth became the wife of Col. Hildebrand Valleau, a staunch Royalist and active veteran of the war of 1812. He achieved local fame by his activity in the Department of the Militia and in promoting the annual meetings at the training grounds at Grassy Point on His Majesty's birthday every fourth of June.

Fanny married Henry Davis, also of the Adolphustown Royalists, who fought in the war of 1812 as sergeant in the 29th Regiment, the members of whose large family became active and prominent in the municipal affairs of the township, holding the highest offices. Mr. Allan R. Davis of Toronto, a writer, and author of the "Old Loyalist," is a descendant of the family.

Thus far I have used the term "Royalist," as the title "United Empire Loyalist" (U.E.L.) was not conferred until a meeting of the Legislative Council held under Lord Dorchester in 1789.

The Youngs of Prince Edward County.

My mother's name was Gloranna Young, second daughter of Lieut. Henry Young, who served as Ensign in Sir John Johnson's regiment during the Revolutionary war. On his retirement at the close of the war he was promoted to the rank of Major in the Militia. A patriotic Canadian and U.E. Loyalist, he was again called to arms on the outbreak of the war of 1812, and as lieutenant raised a company in Prince Edward County, with which he proceeded to Kingston, but he was soon stricken with disease and died in the Military Hospital there in December of the same year. According to the Report of the Canadian Archives for 1905, Lieut. Henry Young of the Provincial Corps was granted two thousand acres of land for services, and as a U.E. Loyalist, but never received any.

Of the ancestry of the Youngs, Guy Henry Young, the Lieutenant's grandfather, who was born in Wellington, Nottinghamshire, Eng., and after emigrating to Long Island, N.Y., married a Scottish girl named Robinson, and two sons, George and Henry, were born. Two more sons, William and John, and two daughters, were born at Husack, N.Y., and here he spent the residue of his days, dying at the venerable age of ninety-three. Of his family, John died in infancy. William learned surveying, became a civil engineer and was one of a staff who surveyed the islands of Lake Ontario and made the first surveys of the Erie Canal. He became Gen. Wm.C. Young and died in New York City at the ripe age of ninety-four, about the year 1780. One daughter married Lampman, a relative of our Canadian poet. Another daughter Gloranna, married Jonathan Odell, the founder of Odelltown, Que., which obtained some notoriety in the war of 1812.

Henry, the second son, who was born March 10th, 1737, joined the British army and served during the French and Indian wars. He received his discharge in 1761 and, returning to Husack, married Miss Mary Fletcher, a lady of Spanish extraction. Her father was a slave holder, carrying on extensive farming operations on the Patroon lands of the Vanrenselaer Estate. The mansion house of this estate, which was once the headquarters of Gen. Abercrombie, where tradition says "Yankee Doodle" was composed in derision of the rebel army, is still standing opposite Albany, N.Y. By this union with Miss Fletcher, Henry had two sons, Daniel and Henry, and of his four daughters, Sarah married John Millar. When the Revolutionary war broke out, Henry again joined the British forces. His last commission was dated November 16th, 1781. During the war he was wounded but once, slightly, in the lower side of his right hand. In the meantime his home at Husack had been raided by the rebels and stripped of everything, even the old Bible with the family record was carried away, and his eldest son, Daniel, lived with his grandfather Fletcher.

Young Daniel, when in his teens, determined to run away and find his father. He entrusted the secret to one of the Negroes, an old body servant of his grandmother's, and when a contingent of British scouts was near, the old darkey secretly provided him with a kit of supplies. He joined the scouts, and after suffering hardships from want of food and the menace of roving Indian bands, reached his father at Oswego. He enlisted with the British forces at once, learned military engineering and became Major Daniel Young. The remainder of the family continued to reside near their former home until the close of the war, when with the first contingent to leave New York they journeyed to St. John, New Brunswick.

In 1780, Col. Henry Young was sent to Carleton Island with Major Ross to make some surveys and to build a fort. The party made preparations for erecting a fortification, the lines of which, it is said, are still prlainly visible. Landing at a small inlet north of Cedar Island, Col. Henry Young was the first of the company to go on shore, and the fort was duly buklt in 1783 at Kingston, whither the British post at Carleton Island was soon moved.

Lieut. Henry, his second son, fought in several engagements in the revolutionary war, and on his retirement was promoted Major in the Militia. He helped build the first log cabin and accompanied his father in breaking the way for settlement in Prince Edward County.

As soon as Col. Young received the grant of land, he invited a brother officer, Lieut. McCartney, to accompany him and his son, Daniel. They set out and coasted up the Bay of Quinte to where Picton now stands. They landed at the foot of the hill on which Mt. Olivet cemetery is now situated. Here they left their canoe, and, packing their supplies, followed the Indian trail through what is now beautiful Glenwood Cemetery till they reached the summit of the escarpment at a point where Lake on the Mountain, Bay of Quinte and East Lake come into view. They continued westward across the forests of Hallowell and Athol townships and reached the head of East Lake at the "Indian Landing." Here they turned southward and followed the southern shore of East Lake, emerging at its outlet into Lake Ontario, amid sand dunes and groves of beautiful cedar, spruce and balsam. The two adventurers removed their shoes and stockings and waded across the outlet, then followed the beach to the north corner of West Point Cove, where they built a hut of cedar boughs and in this shelter spent the night. Next morning, steering toward the north-west, they reached the sand dunes of West Point and following West Lake Beach, crossing the outlet, reaching the present site of Wellington, where they again built a hut of cedar boughs, kindled their camp fire and spent the second night. Next morning they journeyed eastward along the north shore of West Lake, and at the point where that Lake nears the present site of Bloomfield, the explorers turned south toward East Lake, and regained the outward trail of the previous days, which led them back to where they had left their canoe. Finding the forests of Prince Edward County abounding with deer and other game and the takes affording a plentiful supply of fish, the tall native woods and the dense forest indicating fertility of the soil, Col. Young chose a tract of land on the north side of East Lake for his future home, some five or six miles from the present site of the town of Picton. Having chosen the site, he now returned to Cataraqui for supplies, and immediately sent to St. John for his second son, Henry, who made his way to Kingston. In September, Col. Young procured a large boat, loaded it with needed supplies, and with his two sons, Daniel and Henry, paddled up the Bay, landing at the same place as on the previous trip. They cadged their supplies over the "Carrying Place" to the Indian Landing at the head of East Lake. Here they built a large canoe and with their supplies voyaged along the north shore of the lake for about four miles, landing at "Young's Homestead," now in possession of Mr. Malcolm Parks. Here they began a clearing and erected their first log cabin. This being completed, Col. Young, leaving his two sons, Daniel and Henry, to the mercies of a Canadian winter in the forest, and to proceed with needed improvements, returned to Caratagui and joined his family at St. John during the winter. The following spring Col. Young and the family hourneyed from St. John to Cataraqui. Leaving his four daughters at Fredericksburgh, he came on to Prince Edward County and to his intense joy found his two sons alive and well.

The summer was spent in clearing the land and making further improvements, and in October of 1784, he brought his daughters and established his family in their forest home. It will thus be seen that Col. Henry Young was the first white man who came to Prince Edward County and built the first house in the county. He and his descendants have played a large part in shaping the destiny and promoting the development of the County. It is interesting to note that the remains of these veterans are reposing on the pioneer trails which they followed when seeking homes one hundred and forty years ago; namely, at the foot of beautiful Glenwood cemetery in Picton repose the remains of Lieut. Henry Young, who died in 1812, in the family plot beneath a monument of appropriate design and suitably inscribed; while the remains of Col. Henry Young, who died in 1820, and those of Major Daniel Young, who died in 1850, rest side by side in the cemetery at Cherry Valley, not far from the site where they erected the rude log cabin of pioneer days. The original homestead of Col. Henry Young is still retained by direct descendants of Col. Young's family, being at present in possession of Mr. Malcolm Parks, lineal descendant of the sixth generation.

Major Daniel Young, Col. Henry's eldest son, married Dorcas Conger, daughter of the U.E.L. pioneer who built Conger's mill, near Picton. Of this union were bornnine children. He settled at East Lake, near the old homestead, and died in 1850, aged 85 years.

Lieut. Henry Young, my maternal grandfather, who was in Sir John Johnson's regiment in the revolutionary war, was born at Rusack, N.Y. After settlement in Prince Edward County, he married Nancy Dyer, daughter of Squire William Dyer, a pronounced U.E. Loyalist, whose property had been confiscated, his dwelling, barns and cattle burned, and his family banished from the United States. It was commonly reported that the rebels were in the habit of probing among the ashes and refuse of his burned buildings, remarking "here are the bones of old Bill Dyer", under the mistaken belief that he also had been consumed. But he had eluded them, and afterwards settled at East Lake. Lieut. Henry Young later inherited the homestead of his father at East Lake. Here a family of four sons, viz.: George, the father of the late Dr. George Young, Richard, William and Capt. John, and his two daughters, Mary and Gleranna, were born to him. He was again called to the service of his country in the war of 1812, but was cut off prematurely by illness in the Kingston Military Hospital.

When Edward, Duke of Kent, visited Upper Canada in 1792, and went as far as Niagara on this visit, in August, he made a call at Smith's Bay and met Col. Hildebrand Vallieau, Lieut. Henry Young, and the other leading men of the settlement. This county had been named after him in Governor Simcoe's proclamation of July 16 in that year, dividing Upper Canada into counties.

The Osbornes of Sophiasburgh

The Osbornes were of English extraction. The first of the name to migrate to America, and the founder of the New England branch of the family, was Richard Osborne, of London, who came with the Pilgrim Fathers and settled at Windsor, Connecticut, where the name is still perpetuated. Branches of this family migrated to Ridgefield, Bergen County, New Jersey, where Jacobus Osborne, my great-grandfather, and four of his sons, Nathaniel, Richard, William, and Nehemiah, were born. Mrs. Maude Benson, the Canadian writer, has in her possession a pewter platter which was given to her by Jerome Osborne, of Osborne Hill, Herkimer County, N.Y. He claimed it was brought from London by this Richard Osborne, and from Connecticut by Rev. Ames Osborne, his grandfather, when this branch struck out into the New York wilderness.

In course of time, Jacobus Osborne and family migrated to Fulton County, New York, where another son, Jacobus, and two daughters, Abigail and Mary, were born. In common with other Loyalists, the family resolved to avail themselves of the British offer of lands and seek new homes in the Canadian wilderness. In 1785 they procured a Schenectady boat on which they loaded household goods and supplies, and from Johnstown voyaged up the Mohawk river, then up one of the smaller tributaries and portaged ten miles to the head waters of the Oswego River. My grandfather often told me that in going up these rapids the boat got out of their control when they were almost at the top, and slipping back, went all the way to the bottom of the rapids, and they had to do their work over again, although they were very tired. Then they passed down the Oswego River into Lake Ontario; then following the shore, reached Kingston; thence up the Bay of Quinte, rounding Thompson's Point to the eastward and landing on the north shore of the Long Reach in the township of Sophiasburgh. Here they camped for the first, and subsequent, nights under the shelter of a maple until their first cabin was built. I knew the spot well, my grandfather having frequently pointed out the landing-place--a rare bit of smooth, gravelly beach, and the maple under whose grateful shade I had often gambolled in my boyhood days. The location was an ideal one, attractive and wisely chosen. The escarpment of hills fronting the highlands of Sophiasburgh and skirting the north shore of the Long Reach, clothed from top to base in a forest of oaks and maples, sweeps back in a curve, enclosing a small but level plain, a miniature table land, studded here and there with groups of maples, sloping gently to the water's edge, the scene presented to the weary voyageurs a haven of refuge. Such was their introduction to the wilds of Canada, the scene of their future pioneer struggles, and here they pitched their tents. Having pre-empted a block of 400 acres in the first concession of Sophiasburgh, Lots 37, 38, 39 and 40, including that on which they had encamped, they built their temporary long cabin and began the task of hewing out a home.

Jacob Sherts, a pioneer neighbour who accompanied the Osborne family in their migration from Fulton County, N.Y., shared with them the hospitality of the sheltering maples on their first night in Canada. He left next morning

taking with him his axe and blanket, and tramping westward, pre-empted 400 acres for himself and brother, Joh, who came later, locating next to No. 37, which Nathaniel Osborne, my grandfather, had chosen as his allotment. Jacob Shorts lived to the venerable age of ninety-six years, and became one of the most influential and prosperous farmers in Prince Edward County. He was elected one of the first councillors on the institution of District Councils in 1842. He married Sarah Croak and from this union sprang a family of thirteen children, two sons and eleven daughters, the eldest and youngest being sons. John, his brother, died in the prime of manhood. He was killed by the roof of an outbuilding falling on him. The roof was covered with straw and had become sodden with rains.

As already stated, Jacobus Osborne had five sons, Nathaniel, Richard, William, Nehemiah and Jacobus, and two daughters, Abigail and Mary. Abigail married Jacob Benson. Mary married his brother, William Benson. Both settled at the well-known Benson's Hill. Nathaniel, eldest son of the pioneer, was born in Ridgefield, New Jersey, in 1763, and settled on Lot 37, Sophiasburgh. He married Sarah Campbell, daughter of Lieut. Alexander Campbell. Of this union, four sons, James C., Richard, Thomas C., and John C., were born, and four daughters, Elizabeth, Sarah Margaret, Jane and Fanny. He built the first log cabin on the shore of the Long Reach, where his children were born, and which became a sort of military post, stopping-place and headquarters for officers during the war of 1812. He served as Sergeant-Major in the war and had charge of transportation.

Richard, second son of the pioneer, was born in New Jersey and settled on Lot No. 36, Sophiasburgh. Later he moved to Pleasant Bay, a short distance west of Wellington. He served in the war of 1812, and his house at Pleasant Bay also became headquarters and rendezvous for officers during the war. For services rendered during the war he was granted 200 acres in the fourth concession of Ameliasburgh, to which he removed later, where he was killed by a vicious bull in 1852, in his eighty-fourth year.

William, third son of the pioneer, also born in New Jersey, settled on Lot 39, first concession of Sophiasburgh, near his father and brothers, but later moved to Tyendinaga, where he left a long list of descendants.

Nehemiah, the fourth son of the pioneer, was also born in New Jersey, and settled in the second concession near Fish Lake. He was totally blind for many years previous to his death.

The pioneer, Jacobus Osborne, reached the age of eighty-one when death summoned him. In a remote, secluded corner overlooking a tiny cove near the original landing-place, Jacobus Osborne and his wife were buried, and their remains still repose side by side in a nameless grave, well-nigh forgotten. The resting place of these hardy toilers and wrestlers with the stern wilderness differs not from that of hundreds of others of Canada's U.E. Loyalist pioneers, whose remains scattered here and there in the beloved land of their adoption, rest in nameless sepulchres, marked by no tablet, honoured by no cenotaph raised to their memory, consecrated only by weary years of deprivation and toil, while singing birds and moaning winds and lapping waves alone unite to chant their lonely requiem.

Sophiasburgh and The Roblin Families

Sophiasburgh, long known as the Sixth Town, commemorates the name of Sophia, twelfth child and daughter of King George III. This township was settled by many U.E. Loyalists who came in response to Governor Simcoe's proclamation of February 7, 1792, but large numbers of U.E. Loyalists, who had come with Major VanAlstine's party to Adolphustown, later made their homes in Sophiasburgh. Grants of 200 acres of land were given to all who had borne arms in the British cause. It is said that many families on landing placed guns in the hands of their children in order to qualify for receiving grants. In this way extensive land grants were made in Sophiasburgh to Loyalists, who had located in Adophustown, but which were never claimed, and rich holdings were often sold for a mere trifle, as Sophiasburgh was considered at that time to be a backwoods region.

The Roblin family came from New Jersey. Two brothers, John and Stephen, bore arms in the British cause, and John received a wound in his knee which crippled him for life. Both brothers and their families, Owen Roblin, Sr., and Jr., were with Major VanAlstine's party when they landed in Adophustown, the 16th of June, 1784. John died soon after from the wound in his knee. His widow and family moved to Sophiasburgh in 1817, where she purchased 100 acres which included "Princess Sophia's Ravine," and a prospective mill site for $35.

and built her own log house, paying for the whole in weaving, which must have been a severe task, more particularly on one of those old-time primitive hand looms. Mrs. Maude Benson, the Canadian writer, designates her, "Grand Old Pioneer Mother." "Princess Sophia's Ravine" is a historic gorge in Sophiasburgh on the Long Reach, about eight miles east of Picton, commonly known as Roblin's Mills, but so named in distinction to another Roblin's Mills in Ameliasburgh, built later by Owen Roblin, of the same family. Following closely on Widow Roblin's advent to "Princess Sophia's Ravine," Jesse Potter, another New Jersey U.E. Loyalist, came to Sophiasburgh, settling on the lot next to the Widow Roblin's west of the Ravine. Meantime, settlement increasing, the nearest mills being at Napanee and Congers, viz., at the two ends of the Long Reach, the demand for bread stuffs became very urgent. In 1817 the enterprising Widow Roblin built a small grist mill located about half way down the Ravine, an unpretentious log structure, with one run of stones. For a number of years the mill was patronized to its capacity, and filled a great want in the neighbourhood. The old mill was used latterly as a cooper's shop, and was still standing in 1843, but finally disappeared, and even the situation had been forgotten. Later, when the site was pointed out by myself, the only person living who could confirm the location was the late Jas. P. Roblin (father of Sir Redmond P. Roblin), who died at the venerable age of ninety-two. On the death of Widow Roblin, she left this valuable property and desirable situation to her son, Philip Roblin, Sr., who inherited much of his mother's energy. After her death, Philip discarded the old log house and built a handsome frame residence. He also built the second grist mill, a more pretentious frame structure, with two run of stones, and adequate equipment, a few yards further down stream than the old log mill. This was the beginning of a rapidly increasing patronage which continued until Philip, Sr., died, leaving five sons, Philip Jr., Owen, Jr., Levi, John P., and Caleb, and three daughters, Phoebe, who married Mr. Rogers and settled in Whitby, Mary, who married Wm. Dent, who died soon after, and Keziah, who married Squire George Drury in Sophiasburgh. Philip Jr., inherited the homestead and estate; John P. was elected M.P.P., and for years held a prominent position in the Upper Canada Legislature; Caleb was drowned while crossing the ice from Marchfront to the Indian Reserve; Owen Roblin, Jr., built the mill in Ameliasburgh, long known as Seventh Town.

The power dam of the mills at "Princess Sophia's Ravine" was located entirely on the adjoining farm of Jesse Potter, the western corner of the dam approaching within four feet of Mr. Potter's barn and flooding a large area of his reserve woodlands. In consequence there were bitter contentions and annual lawsuits between Mr. Potter and Philip Roblin, Sr., which continued many years, but which proved futile, and Mr. Roblin succeeded in maintaining his mill privileges. Finally these rivalries ceased, when Philip Roblin, Sr., passed away at a ripe old age, and a large concourse of friends and neighbours saw his remains carried from the old red mansion to the little cemetery on the hillside, of which event I have a recollection as a witness. Jesse Potter soon followed, at the advanced age of eighty-three years, which event also I remember. Standing beside the coffin, I was just tall enough to see his stern and pallid features over the edge of the coffin.

The former rivals are now quietly reposing side by side, each in his narrow bed, which was once his own property, not by design, but because the little cemetery is just on the line between the two farms, at the foot of the Ravine, near the Bay.

On the decease of Philip Roblin, Sr., Philip, Jr., his son, who died in 1899, inherited the estate and succeeded to the business. Soon after his father's death he built the third grist millat the head of the Ravine, near the bridge where the road crosses,--a fine, three storey modern structure, with over-shot water wheel, seventeen feet in diameter, with three run of stones. He also erected a large storehouse just across the road, which was ultimately connected with the mill by an overhead gangway. He likewise added a complete saw mill equipment to the lower mill, operated by both steam and water power, and in various ways enlarged and increased it till the milling business here expanded to one of the most extensive in Canada. Large consignments of flour were for many years shipped regularly from these mills to foreign lands, until Roblin's Mills became for a time a leading commercial centre in the country, and a considerable lake depot, with storehouses, shops and docks for convenience of shipping.

Levi Roblin, one of the brothers previously mentioned, built a saw mill at the foot of the Ravine near the Bay, and likewise a private residence. The former was equipped with an old-fashioned upright saw, worked by a water wheel and crank, and which for many years did the principal share of custom sawing, and was the only saw mill in an extensive region. Its persistent measured

beats were an object of interest to youthful eyes that watched its movements by the hour.

The only approach to the little cemetery from the east was under the flume of the saw mill, then over the brook and up the hillside. On numerous occasions it has been my melancholy privilege to witness funeral processions bearing their precious burden with trembling footsteps, carefully choose boulders in crossing the stream, and then make their way up the hillside to the cemetery. Originally a private burial plot, the first to occupy a place in this primitive hillside cemetery was Widow Roblin, with her sons, grandsons and numerous family relatives, each grave marked by a suitable monument. In time, however, it became a general burial place for the neighbourhood, and many of the early inhabitants in a widely extended area found a final resting-place in this sequestered and romantic abode of the dead.

I visited the familiar scene in 1914, and to my amazement the Ravine had become literally a desert. Where once stood three grist mills, two saw mills, two private residences, a merchant's shop, an extensive storehouse and dock, all have been dismantled and not a vestige remains. The fine millat the head of the Ravine has entirely disappeared,--not even a stone of the foundation remains; in fact none of the locations can be discerned except by those familiar with the former site. The dam is obliterated, and the ground devoted to grain crops. Where once were witnessed scenes of industry and commercial prosperity, nothing remains to awaken the memory but "beetling cliffs, a hillside cemetery and a purling brook." One is forcibly reminded of Macaulay's New Zealander, seated on a broken arch of London Bridge, surveying the ruins of a city.

Bay of Quinte Ferries

At the extreme southwesterly point of Adolphustown, the Bay of Quinte is quite narrow, and from the point across to the Stone Mills, built by Major VanAlstine in Marysburgh, and the Lake on the Mountain, just above the mills, a ferry has been maintained from the earliest times, or since the mills were built. Below the point, toward Glen Island and Kingston, the Bay is known as the Adolphustown Reach. From Picton eastward along the Sophiasburgh shore, extending beyond Green Point toward Deseronto,--a stretch of about twenty miles, the Bay gets the name of the Long Reach.

Likewise, between Thompson's Point and Nicholas Wessel's farm on the Sophiasburgh shore, in the early years, a ferry was maintained for some time called Wessel's Ferry. The roadway up the long steep hill from the landing terminated in a spacious lawn, about an acre in extent, on which at one time stood a handsome frame church, painted white, capable of holding about four hundred people, and known as Wessel's Church, of the Methodist Episcopal denomination. Among certain money grants to Sophiasburgh in 1820, it is on record that a grant of $100 was appropriated toward opening a road from Wessel's Ferry through to Demorestville Mills. A quarterly communion service held in 1844, attended by an unusually large congregation, when the Rev. George Jones preached a sermon from that well-known text in which Job's wife offers her husband a peculiar, if not sarcastic, word of consolation, was about the last gathering held in the historic Wessel's Church, which has since been dismantled and torn down, leaving neither stick nor stone, and not even a trace of the foundation. It is just a grassy plain flanked by a beautiful grove; nought else remains to show that a sacred edifice had once stood on the deserted plain.

About a mile farther east on the same shore in Scanlon's Ferry, for years maintained to cross at the junction of Hay Bay and the Long Reach. At the landing was a commodious warehouse, while the roadway up the steep bank terminated in Scanlon's general store on the brow of the hill, where a considerable country trade was transacted in the early days. The erection of the warehouse at the landing, the foundations of which extended partly over the water, furnished a drama of considerable interest to the community for a long period afterward. I often heard my father and my grandfather describe the incident. They were present at the "raising", with a large concourse of men, and among them was a character known as "Devil" Tom Dorland. He was not really a bad man, but had a reputation for doing eccentric and risky tricks. When the men had raised the outer heavy plate to its position on the main posts, it was found to be wrong end on, and had to be turned. The plate was balanced on the centre post preparatory to being swung, when "Devil" Tom insisted on getting astride one end of the big plate, and in that perilous position, sixty feet above the water, he swung around with the plate to the consternation of the crowd. The ware-

house has long been dismantled, and every vestige of it has vanished. Not a stone of the foundation remains to show its former site. Portions of the masonry which formed the artificial roadway up the steep bank have become disintegrated, and are rapidly crumbling away and sliding down the embankment.

Another ferry, half a mile farther east, was Hazzard's Ferry, maintained intermittently across the Long Reach to the Hay Bay shore. Here also was Hazzard's sawmill, worked by a somewhat puny water power.

One and a half miles still farther east is "Princess Sophia's Ravine", or Roblin's Ferry, crossing the Long Reach to Casey's Point, and maintained since 1817.

Two miles farther east, on Lot No. 43, is Clark's Ferry, or Clark's Crossing originally known as "Job Bower's Ferry and Potashery Works," maintained since 1785. It was called Clark's Ferry after a family of that name, living on the Adolphustown side. It was long known as Bedford's Ferry, from a man who kept a store on the Sophiasburgh side. Bedford moved to Belleville, and was succeeded by Munroe, when for some time it was called Munroe's Ferry. Of late years it has been known as Cole's Ferry.

Military Activities of the Earliest Years.

In memory of the military projects of Kingston in its early days, on this occasion of the city's 250th anniversary, I recall my numerous military ancestors by way of contrast with public affairs of the present day, and their frequent and intimate connection with these projects,--two great grandfathers, Col. Henry Young, who built Fort Henry, and Lieut. Alexander Campbell, who came with Capt. Grass' first contingent of settlers; one great-uncle, Major Daniel Young, military engineer, 1780-85; and two grandfathers, Lieut. Henry Young, who died in Kingston military hospital, December, 1812, and Sergeant Major Nathaniel Osborne, who was master of transportation in the Kingston-Mackinaw relief expedition, 1814.

Sergeant Major Nathaniel Osborne, my grandfather, and Sergeant John Lowe told me of many incidents in the war times of 1812-14. While serving with his company, and doing garrison duty awaiting orders, Sergeant Major Osborne was an actor in an amusing but pathetic incident, illustrative of war-time privations, which soldiers are often compelled to undergo. Sergeant Lowe said that on one occasion the garrison grew short of provisions, supplies having failed, through some mishap, to come to hand. In this extremity, the garrison officer one morning sent out Sergeant Lowe with a squad to forage for something to eat. They went up among the cedars which at that time covered the site of Frontenac Park of the present day, used even then as a military cemetery, and found the skeleton of a horse,--nothing left but the bones. Securing the head, they took it down to the barracks, put it into the big cauldron and made a good pot of soup, which everyone relished, as they had been on short rations. It was a fortunate relief; Sergeant Lowe remarked that it was "the sweetest morsel he had ever tasted," and my grandfather confirmed the story.

The expedition for the relief of Mackinaw left Kingston, after due preparation, in the latter part of March, 1814. It consisted of a contingent of one hundred and sixty picked men, with twenty artillerymen and twenty men of the Royal Navy, all under the command of Lieut.-Col. Robert McDouall, with Capt. Andrew Bulger in subordinate command. They proceeded by the Danforth Road, through Ernesttown, Bath, Fredericksburgh and Adolphustown, halting for three nights in the latter settlement, where the soldiers found quarters in the old Quaker meeting-house, a building that has disappeared. Here was the home of Lieut. Alexander Campbell, grandfather of the commissary, Thomas G. Ridout, whose mother was Mary Campbell. From Adolphustown the contingent crossed the Bay of Quinte at Job Bower's Ferry, known later as Clark's Crossing, climbed the long hill of the Sophiasburgh escarpment, and halted for the night at the home of the transportation master, Sergeant-Major Nathaniel Osborne, a pioneer log house of eighteen by twenty-one feet, on Lot No. 37. The heavy chest of gold coins and other valuables was placed in the middle of the floor, in front of the open fireplace, and the soldiers stretched about on the floor to sleep, the commissary, whose uncle owned the house, occupying the only bed in the room, while the family climbed a rude ladder to the loft and slept on straw. Often I have heard my grandfather tell how the officers played cards on the chest of treasure through the whole night, while the rank and file either slept on the floor in front of the blazing fire, or camped in tents outside. The expedition started next morning, and had reached "Princess Sophia's Ravine" or Roblin's Gorge, about a mile westward, when something went wrong with the drawing gear of the team of horses driven by Adam

Shortt. Getting too near the ravine, the entire lead--team, driver and all--tumbled over into the Gorge, killing one of the horses and breaking one knee-cap of the driver.

The contingent succeeded in mounting the famous Benson's Hill, which proved to be a difficult task, as the hill was not then what it is now. In due time they reached Pleasant Bay, and halted for one night at the home of Richard Osborne, one of the contingent, west of Wellington, whose house was used as a headquarters during the war. From here they passed on to the Carrying Place, where they camped another night in two feet of snow. During the night my grandfather awoke, and hearing something like water trickling in the snow, he investigated and found that one of the soldiers had crawled into the shadow of one of the barrels of rum, tapped it, got all he wanted, then either lost the plug or forgot to replace it, and left the rum running.

One of the "Graves of a Household".

Many persons are familiar with the pathetic verses by Mrs. Hemans, bearing the above title, but it seems not to be so generally known that in the poem she is describing the graves of her own brothers and sister. When this is known, it adds much additional pathos to the verses.

The verse of interest to Canadians reads thus:-

" One, 'midst the forests of the West,
By a dark stream is laid, --
The Indian knows his place of rest,
Far in the cedar-shade."

The grave is that of her brother, Major Claude Browne, who died in Kingston several years before her own death in 1835. There is a reference to Major Browne's grave in the Toronto Saturday Globe of November 22, 1902, in a sketch by Leman A. Guild, in which he locates it in Frontenac Park, Kingston. He omitted in his sketch to say that Frontenac Park was first used as a military cemetery, and was originally covered with a dense grove of cedar trees. (There are, however, signs of a stream only at the lower, or St. Paul's cemetery, where many soldiers were also buried.) In my boyhood days I was fairly familiar with Old Kingston, and seventy-five years ago the cedar grove was still there. It was also my privilege to meet at Port Erie, fifty-five years ago, the second son of Mrs. Hemans, the poetess, Mr. Claude Hemans, who was then British Consul at Buffalo, N.Y., and, having received several threatening letters about the time of the Fenian Raid, thought it advisable to take up his residence at Port Erie, wherehe lived ina large house at the corner of Queen and Niagara streets, which was afterward converted into the Queen's Hotel.

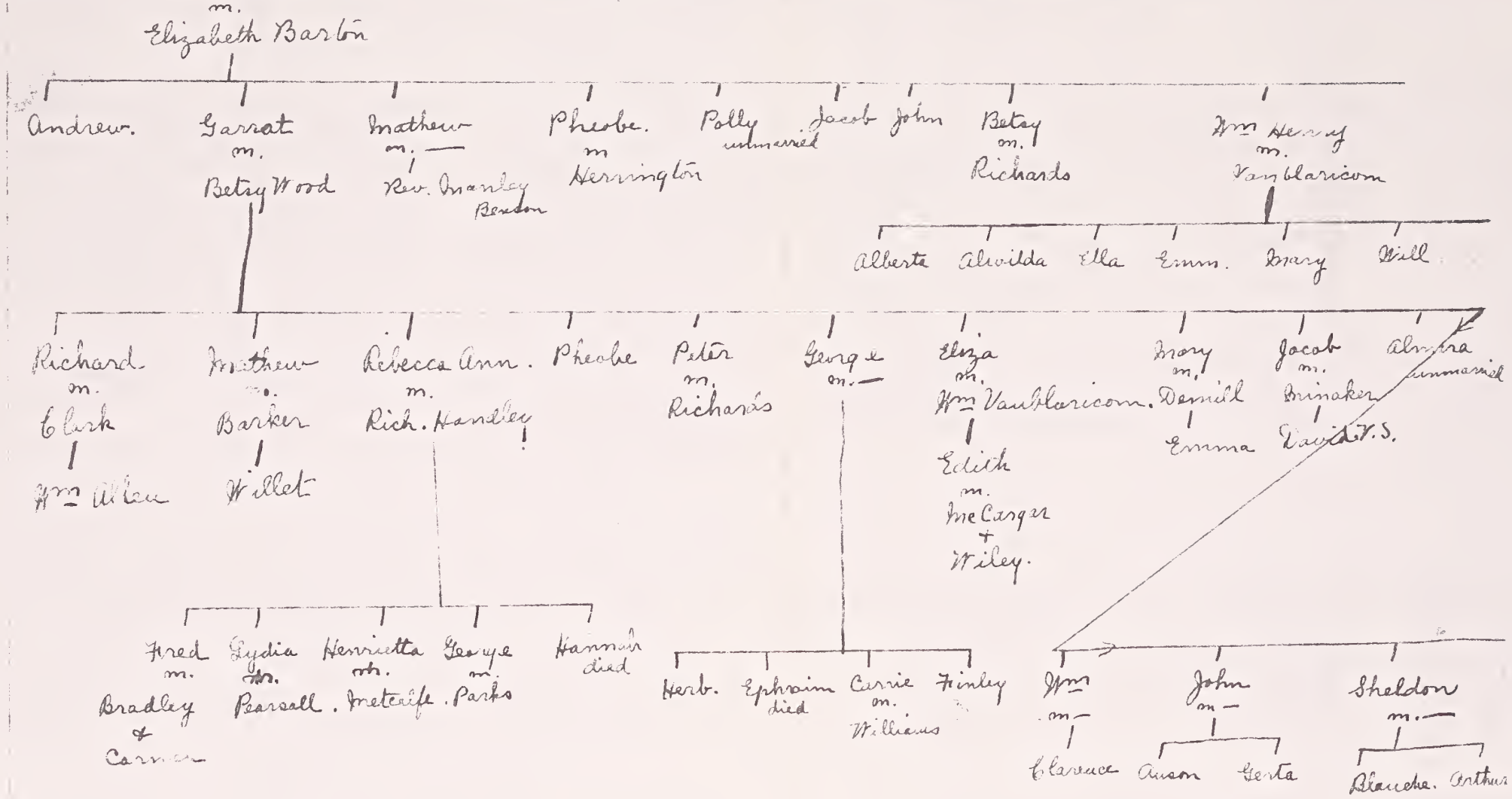
(2) Jacob Benson. b. 1768. d. 1868 ages 99-7 mo's 4 days 5th Son of Pioneer Mathew

m.

Abigail Osborne b. 1775. d. 1837.

- Mary b. 1796 d. 1834 m. Anthony Merrill in 1823
- Anna b. 1797 m. D 1883 Michael Cryderman in 1818
- Mathew b. 1798 d. 1799 10 mths old.
- James b. 1800 m. D 1869 Mary Drader in 1822
- Elizabeth b. 1802 m. D 1884 David Conger in 1830
- Garrat b. & d. in 1804 7 mths. old.
- William b. 1805 d. 1880 m. Mary Blakely b. 1796 d. 1884
  - John b. 1808 d. 1896 ages 88-1 mo-9 days. m. Ruth Ruttan in 1836 D 1899
  - Jane b. 1810 m. Anthony Herrington in 1829
  - Margaret b. 1813 m. D 1858 Storr
  - Rhoda b. 1816 m. D 1893 John Gibbard

(4) Irwin Richard - Brother of Jacob - son of Pioneer Mathew.



The Chivalry of the Hudson

"... then are the Van Rensselaers, the Van Zandts, the Van Hornes, the Rutgers, the Bensons, the Brinkerhoffs, the Schermerhornes, and all the true descendants of the ancient Pavonians, the only legitimate nobility and real lords of the soil."

Washington Irving

Nehemiah Osborn not U.E., but his wife Deborah, wife + dau of John Thompson of Sophiasburg, was Hannah Sypes, was dau. of Andries Sypes U.E. + Mary Middaugh, she mar. Hugh Ross of Matilda O.C. 12.1.1837
William Shaver, mar Sophia, dau. John Shaver of Matilda U.E. Hon O.C. 5.3.1828

54 Hickson Street,
Toronto, Ont.,
M6K 1T3,
1 July, 1974.

Dr. H.C. Burleigh, M.D., U.E.,
Box 9,
Bath, Ont.

A Nathaniel Osborn named a soldier in the Supplementary Soldier but no Nehemiah. + none on U.E. List

Dear Dr. Burleigh:

Have you at any time advised the Osbornes of their U.E. status and ancestry? A Mr. A.G. Osborne of London, Ont., has written me regarding the Osbornes, Ruttans and Bensons. He states in his letter: "Our ancestry traces back to the U.E. Loyalist Nehemiah Osborne, a son of Jacobus Osborne, Sr. He and his four sons Nathaniel, Richard, William and Nehemiah were born in Bergen County, N.J. Abigail, Mary and Jacobus, Jr., were born in Fulton County, N.Y. Abigail married Jacob Benson, Mary married William Benson." The latter statement is true but the U.E. status of the Osbornes is not. Mr. C.L. Wanamaker stated that they, the Osbornes were not U.E.Ls, probably in the same category as the Congers.

Jones "Loyalists of N.J." refers to a Samuel Osborne on page 167 but this man is not mentioned in Mr. Osborne's letter. The information in the book seems to indicate that Samuel Osborne had his land seized not because he was a Loyalist but that he would not bear arms. Thus it seems that he was a pacifist and not a Loyalist or U.E.L.

Do you have any data on the Osbornes from reliable sources? I sent Mrs. Hancocks Mr. Wanamaker's comments on the ancestors given by members of the Gov. Simcoe Branch as qualifications for U.E. background. She has replied that William Shaver, Hannah Sipes and Benjamin Willson are U.E.s. I suppose I will have to quote my sources for my belief that they are not U.E. in their own right. Most of these people do not seem to understand that there is one U.E. ancestor for the family and that daughters and sons are not the U.E. ancestor. According to the land books Willson recieved land as an official, not as a U.E. Loyalist.

Sincerely,

K.A. Benson

Kenneth A. Benson

A Nehemiah Osborne is mentioned twice in Rykers "Officers and Men of N.J. in the Rev. War"
Rebels?

1146 Prince Philip Dr.
London, Ontario, N6H 4E5,
March 22, 1974.

H. C. Burleigh, M.D., C.M.,
Bath, Ontario, K0H 1G0.

Dear Dr. Burleigh

I must thank you for your prompt and gracious reply to my letter of March 14. Knowing full well how busy most doctors are with their professional work, I can only imagine, with your absorbing and demanding hobby, how little spare (!) time you must have left. I cannot but admire you, and can understand the urge quite well.

I have always been interested, and have listened avidly to my dad as he would speak about our ancestors. He put together much of the material which I now have. I asked if I could borrow his collection last summer, and have pored over it since, with consuming interest. I must say that it is relaxing, and as my early retirement has been forced by multiple coronary occlusions, certainly not physically taxing. I do have other, more energetic pursuits, however.

Regarding search, as a first move, I do appreciate your kind offer to allow me to view your files, in situ; this I would like to do in order to fill in such gaps as time permits. We haven't fixed up the date of our visit to Prince Edward with my father, but I think perhaps it might be in May, which will be a more pleasant time to visit mother's grave. I will advise.

Regarding your two books, "Names of Loyalists" and "Forgotten Lanes of Local History" Kingston, I wish to order both, and enclose my cheque for the sum of $9.00.

Again, with thanks, I am

Respectfully and loyally yours,

A. George Osborne.

Hannah =

Rebemiah Osborne = Deborah Simpson
oc 26 3 1817

James
o

Gee =
Peck

Samuel Peck
1803
as 95
oc 5 7 1798
& 26 3 1817

= Julia Parlt
1783-1865
as 85

Grace Cole
1817-1884

= Henry Peck
1825-1910

Rev Parks =

=2° Elisha Wagner
of
P.A. Co

Geo. Parlt. Cole
1855-1947

Ella Parks
b 1872 Hungerford Tp

Sergetta Beryl Cole

Ralph Osborne

Daniel Cole

Peleg[4] wds 21.11.1791 = 5.1.1794 Jane Parlement of Sophiesburg

- Samuel 6.8.1840
- Peleg 6.8.40 (O.C.S.)
- Margaret 6.8.40 = Smith Benedict of Sophiesburg
- Elizabeth 4.7.36 = Hiram Thompson of Sophiesburg
- Jane 4.2.36
- Mary 3.5.26 = Peter Barriger
- Paul 22.6.25 of Sophiesburg
- Hannah 22.6.25 = Eleanor Williams of Marysburgh

George Parlt = [illegible] at sea from N.J.

- Samuel 1767-1862 1863 1768 or 95 = Julia Parlement 1778-1868 or 85 1783
- [illegible] = [illegible] Peter Cole
- Lucy Peele 1825-1910 = Isaac Cole 1817-1889
  - Zachariah c 1835
  - Eliza Jane
  - Sarah Jane
  - Geo Parlt 1855-1897 = Ella Parlee
    - Bergh Cole c 1880 = Ralph Osborne
    - Lucy Margaret

1146 Prince Philip Drive,
London, Ont., N6H 4E5
March 14, 1974.

Lt. Col. H.C. Burleigh, M.D.
Box 9, Bath, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Burleigh:

We have just recently joined the London Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Society, and my "pedigree" is in the throes of being checked out. Both my parents hail from Prince Edward County, and the family plot is in Glenwood Cemetery, Picton Ont. My mother, Georgella Beryl Cole will be buried there this Spring. Her father was George Parliament Cole of Big Island. My father hails from Bethesda, Sophiasburgh Twp., Lot 19, Con. II. He has kept pretty good track of the Osborne side of the family. My mother had rather hazy recollections, but Mr. + Mrs. C.L.R. Wanamaker of Belleville, in 1966 were able to provide some leads. I need to do some research on the Coles, the Parliaments and the Picks in order to complete my mother's lineage on her father's side.

On her mother's side things are a bit obscure. Her mother was Sarah Ellen Parks, daughter of a Rev. Parks, and she was born in 1872 in Hungerford, Hastings County. My great-grandmother Parks was widowed early, and married Elisha Woger of Pr. Edw. County. I never knew her first

Cole
Parliament
Parks
Parks.

related to
Varty

Park

Rev Parks

= 29 Elisha
b age
of
P & Co

Cole

Parks

Geo. Parks Cole
of Big Sd.

Sarah Ellen Parks
b. 1872 in Annapolis Co

Georgetta Beryl Cole

lot 19 Conc 2
Sophiasburg

A. Geo.
Retired.

Hannah =
John

Nehemiah = Deborah Ingersoll

Ralph

Cole 222
Parks
Parks 635

name, nor her maiden name. To me as a child she was simply "Grandma Wager." Harold Varty, who has a farm near Stoco is related to her on Elisha Wager, I am not sure which. I think his father, Hiram Varty may have married a Wager.

I was interested to read, in the Autumn, 1973 issue of the Loyalist Gazette, which our President, John Ellerson just sent me, that you have written a book, "The Graves of Our Ancestors". Is this in print yet? If so, what price per copy? Being now retired (at 60) I have time to delve, and would appreciate some sage advice in this area.

As a matter of interest, I met a Jay Osborne at the Canadian Club yesterday, who was born on a farm near Belleville. His connection is in the Bloomfield area, and I hazard a guess that Richard Osborne, son of Jacobus Osborne and Tremus Trumpour was his ancestor, as Richard settled in ~~that~~ the general area near Bloomfield. Richard's younger brother Nehemiah was my ancestor.

Reply 16.3.74
Offers reviews on 7 books
work at $3.00
Also book at $4.25

Yours very truly,

A. LeGeorge Osborne

P.S. I would be interested in knowing about any other pertinent publications, where these might be found, etc.

O.

R.R.4. Sterling, Ont. Aug 20/70

Dr. Burleigh M.E.
Bath, Ont.

Dear Dr -

often wonder how you are, and if you have retired as yet? after so busy a life in army & here, - hope you may enjoy a well earned rest. John is at North Bay & seldom gets home. I have not been to W.E.L. meetings for a long time - we don't go out nights anymore & I miss going very much. The old 1st war boys keep dropping off - a few around Sterling. I was made a life member in 1962 - of Sterling Legion 228.

Very thankful to be able to work in garden last few years. living nearly 4 yrs past Eighty. Been a long hot spell - nearly 90 - for 2 weeks some cooler today for which we are very thankful.

Mr & Mrs J. H. Sager of Texas called here today - last time was 5 years ago.

Am inclosing an application form for Mr. Charles Osborne of 31 Gilbert St. St. Catharines, Ont.

The Rogers family were really pleased to get word ~~from~~ when you & Mr. Wannamaker found out record of William Rogers of Loyal Rangers all E.R. so you see your extra work in A.E.R. is really appreciated. I hope you may not feel that I am asking too much in asking you to look up record of Osborne family.

Yours sincerely
C. S. Chard.

Aug 20/1970.

Dr. Burbergh U.E.
Bath, Ont.

Dear sir -

The enclosed from Mr Chas. A. Osborne. He visited us yesterday & asked me to help him.
I explained you were the only one who could help.
I feel really satisfied this young man would be a valuable asset to any branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association.
Thanks for all your past work.

C. S. Chard (U.E.)
Member #39 Quinte
Branch U.E.L. Assn.

Please return Mr. Osborne's family record to me. C.S.C.

Robt Osborn
- Nehemiah Osborn
  - Jacobus Osborn
  - ———
- Deborah Trumpour
  - John Trumpour
  - ———

Joseph Allen Osborn

Fanny Clapp
- Benjamin Clapp
  - Benjamin Clapp
    - Joseph Clapp
    - Mary Carpenter
  - ———
- Elizabeth Roblin
  - Philip Roblin U.E.
  - Elizabeth Miller
    - Garrett Miller

Robt A Osborn

Elizabeth Whelpley

Charlotte Mary Whelpley

Ira Yeomans
- David Yeomans
  - Moses Yeomans
  - Sarah Pratt
- Irene Day
  - Abraham Day
  - Irene Foot

Sarah Irena Yeomans

Charlotte Hardner
- Nicholas Hardner
  - John Jost Hardner
  - Mary Van Allen
- Charlotte Purdy
  - Gilbert Purdy U.E.
  - Mary ——

John Jos Osborn
my father
b 28 Jun 1914
at ~~Norval~~
Norval Ont.
= 27 July 1946
Anne Marguerite
Leach

Chas A Osborn
b 21.7.1947
at St Catharines
Ont.

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Chard
R.R. No. 4, Sterling, Ont.

DR. BURLEIGH

BATH,

ONTARIO

CANADA

31 Albert Street
St. Catharines
April 19, 1968

Dear Dr. Burleigh:

Your name has been recommended to me by two people: Mr. S. F. Osborne and a fellow member of the St. Catharines and Lincoln Historical Society. They suggested that if I had any questions on the Bay of Quinte you were the person to ask.

Well for the past year and one half I have been trying to trace my family's history. I have been doing my father's while my mother has been doing hers. Most of my fathers ancestors came from the Bay of Quinte area. My name is Osborne and some of the other names of my ancestors from that area are Yeomans, Clapp, & McGorman.

Quite a while ago I wrote to a Miss Fralick in Belleville, according to a list on "Ontario History" she is or was Corresponding Secretary of the Bay of Quinte Branch of the U.E.L. Assoc. Well many months have passed and I have yet to receive any correspondence.

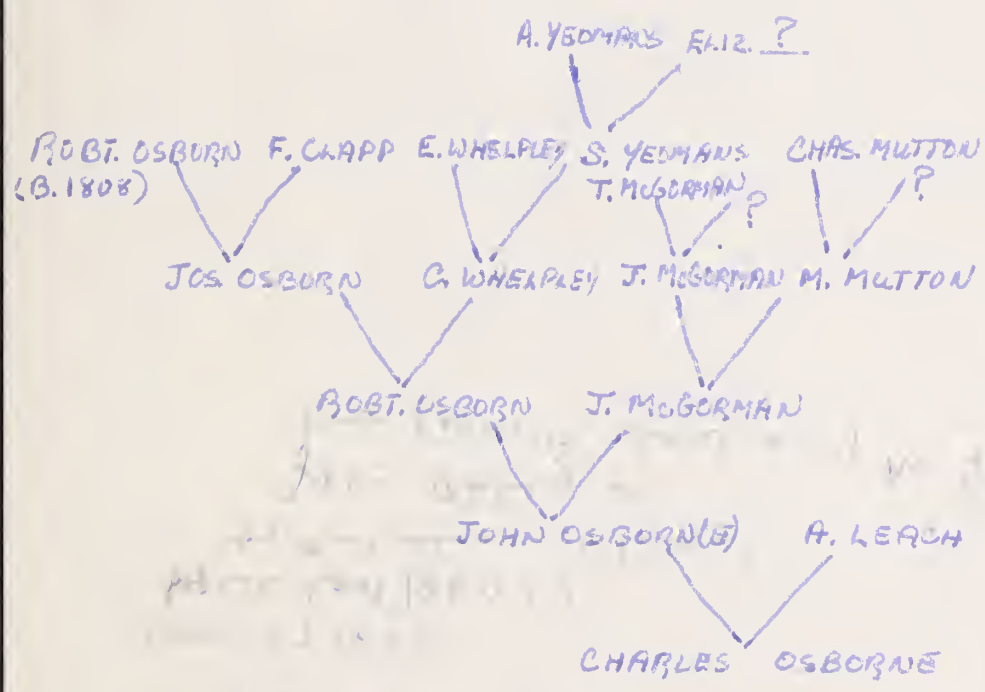
I understand that you are The Genealogist for your local U.E.L. Branch; and that, you are interested in the histories of the families of the area and perhaps you might be interested in an exchange of information.

If so then I'll give you a quick sketch of what I've done so far right now:

N. B.

Whelpley Darling Ct KN
Jonathan NCO "
Cartmer, 96 LAR
Dewer Ct —

LAR Loyal Amer. Regt.



My mother's family all come from the Newcastle area of New Brunswick. The Whelpley's come from St. John River area of New Brunswick, They are supposed to have been one of first U.E.L.

Kingston Gazette & R. A

Married
on 5 inst (Jan 1829) by Rev. Robt McDowall
Simeon Kellogg of Belleville, to
Miss Lorenda 2d da Mr. Phelpley, innkeeper of this town

Mar 27 1829
~~Married~~ last (26 Mar)
by Archdeacon Stuart
John Alley to
Miss Phebe B, eldest da of Mr Philip Whelpley

families on it (according to Esther Clark Wright's book "The St. John River) The Muttons are supposed to be from the Castleton area and before that England.

The earliest Robert Osborn had a farm near Melrose, Hastings County. His son, (my great-grandfather) moved west to Mount Forest Ontario where my grandfather was born and raised. My grandfather moved around quite a bit and they moved here in 1915 where my father was raised. I was born here.

The McSorman's were from Ireland and not U.E.L.'s. Thomas my great-great grandfather was born there and came to Prince Edward where he had a 200A. farm He lost it through drink. My great-grandfather John McSorman was a shoemaker in Brighton for many years until 1932.

The Clapps I know very little about. I know they are plentiful in the Bay of Quinte area.

I have gone through most of the films of the Censuses on Hastings and Prince Edward

I have seen these books: Chadwick's book on old Ontarian families and "Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte" (I have Xerox copies of Osborne and Clapp sections)

You must be wondering what I want. I would appreciate any suggestions as to possible sources that could help me. Also could you give any further information on Robert Osborn (B. 1808) such as when he died who his parents were and where they are all buried. I would also like the same information for his wife Fanny or Fanna Clapp.

If you would like to exhange information then I can send you sheets with more detailed information.

Thank you.

Yours truly
Charles Osborne

P.S. I have a cousin named Sager who is also in the same position as I am only she has definite U.E. ancestors. Can you help her?

Sarah Campbell = Neilh^to Osborne
~~son of Jas C Osborne & Eleonora Young~~

1 Rev Jno C Osborne
2 Jas C
3 Shos C
4 Jno C
5 Elizth
6 Sarah Maryt
7 Jane
8 Fanny

Look for wills of
Jas. Osborne of Sopleasbrugh.
Richard Hare of " " etc.

Look for census of 1851 of
Jas. Osborne
Richard Hare

H. C. BURLEIGH, M.D.
BATH, ONT.

_____ 19____

*For*_____

℞

Jacobus Osborne Sr

2
Richd
b 1770
d 1852
= Sarah
Trumpour
|
PLBQ

5
James
= Irenie
Trumpour
d. Jno
oc 13·3·1807

4
Nehemiah
=Deborah
Trumpour
oc 26·3·1817

1
Nathaniel
b 1763
: Sarah
Campbell

3
William
: to
Ingersoll
[illegible]

Abigail
Mary

Jesse Richd Thos C Jno C Eliph
Sarah Margt
Jane
Fanny

Eliph
=Henry
Rightmyer

John
of
Hallowell
Mills

anna
1809-1884
=John Wood
1809-1896
Bur Mt Vernon

H. C. BURLEIGH, M.D.
BATH, ONT.

_____ 19____

*For*_____

℞

James Dougall Book

Abigail, d. Richd + Mary Osborne, b. Sophias.
b. June 21, bp. 16 Nov 1817 by Wm Case

Nehemiah, s. Wm & Hannah Osburn bp Sophias.
June 11, 1824.

S & Dawes

Thompson Joh Sophias

a. Cathe = James Osburn Sophias O.S. 13.3.1807

Sarah Campbell ~~[illegible]~~ Sydney. Nathaniel
Osborne, son of Jacobus Osborne
~~was she d. of Ht Alex?~~

H. C. BURLEIGH, M.D.
BATH, ONT.

_____ 19 _____

For _____

℞

The Osbornes of Sophiasburgh

The Osbornes were of English extraction. The first of the name to migrate to America, and the founder of the New England branch of the family, was Richard Osborne, of London, who came with the Pilgrim Fathers and settled at Windsor, Connecticut, where the name is still perpetuated. Branches of this family migrated to Ridgefield, Bergen County, New Jersey, where Jacobus Osborne, my great-grandfather, and four of his sons, Nathaniel, Richard, William and Nehemiah, were born. Mrs. Maude Benson, the Canadian writer, has in her possession a pewter platter which was given to her by Jerome Osborne, of Osborne Hill, Herkimer County, N.Y. He claimed it was brought from London by this Richard Osborne, and from Connecticut by Rev. Amos Osborne, his grandfather, when this branch struck out into the New York wilderness.

In course of time, Jacobus Osborne and family migrated to Fulton County, New York, where another son, Jacobus, and two daughters, Abigail and Mary, were born. In common with other Loyalists, the family resolved to avail themselves of the British offer of lands and seek new homes in the Canadian wilderness. In 1785 they procured a Schenectady boat on which they loaded household goods and supplies, and from Johnstown voyaged up the Mohawk river, then up one of the smaller tributaries and portaged ten miles to the head waters of the Oswego River. My grandfather often told me that in going up these rapids the boat got out of their control when they were almost at the top, and slipping back, went all the way to the bottom of the rapids, and they had to do their work over again, although they were very tired. Then they passed down the Oswego River into Lake Ontario; then following the shore reached Kingston; thence up the Bay of Quinte, rounding Thompson's Point to the eastward and landing on the north shore of the Long Reach in the township of Sophiasburgh. Here they camped for the first, and subsequent, nights under the shelter of a maple until their first cabin was built. I knew the spot well, my grandfather having frequently pointed out the landing-place--a rare bit of smooth, gravelly beach, and the maple under whose grateful shade I had often gambolled in my boyhood days. The location was an ideal one, attractive and wisely chosen. The escarpment of hills fronting the highlands of Sophiasburgh and skirting the north shore of the Long Reach, clothed from top to base in a forest of oaks and maples, sweeps back in a curve, enclosing a small but level plain, a miniature water's edge, the scene presented to the weary voyageurs a haven of refuge. Such was their introduction to the

wilds of Canada, the scene of their future pioneer struggles, and here they pitched their tents. Having pre-empted a block of 400 acres in the first concession of Sophiasburgh, Lots 37, 38, 39 and 40, including that on which they had encamped, they built their temporary log cabin and began the task of hewing out a home.

Jacob Shorts, a pioneer neighbour who accompanied the Osborne family in their migration from Fulton County, N.Y., shared with them the hospitality of the sheltering maples on their first night in Canada. He left next morning taking with him his axe and blanket, and tramping westward, pre-empted 400 acres for himself and brother, John, who came later, locating next to No. 37, which Nathaniel Osborne, my grandfather, had chosen as his allotment. Jacob Shorts lived to the venerable age of ninety-six years, and became one of the most influential and prosperous farmers in Prince Edward County. He was elected one of the first councillors on the institution of District Councils in 1842. He married Sarah Cronk and from this union sprang a family of thirteen children, two sons and eleven daughters, the eldest and youngest being sons. John, his brother, died in the prime of manhood. He was killed by the roof of an outbuilding falling on him. The roof was covered with straw and had become sodden with rains.

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OSBURN, James of Markham, m. Sarah Smith. Died 1842. p. 552 York Biog. Record. Capt. North Carolina Provincials. O.C. 19 April 1808.
s. James of Markham. O.C. 30 July 1811.
d. Rebecca, m. William Anderson of Markham. O.C. 28 July 1819.
d. Sarah, m. Jonathan Tomlinson of Markham. O.C. 28 July 1819.
s. Benjamin of Markham. O.C. 27 August 1840.
s. Joseph of Markham. O.C. 19 December 1833.
d. Elizabeth, m. Michael Hartney of Markham. O.C. 6 Dec. 1832.

SHORTS, Augustus of Fredericksburg.
d. Mary. O.C. 31 December 1840.
s. Samuel D. of Richmond. O.C. 17 December 1836.
d. Elizabeth, m. Thos. G. Hughes of Richmond. O.C. 28 Oct. 1835.
s. Andrew/of Richmond. O.C. 28 October, 1835.
s. William of Fredericksburg. O.C. 4 February 1836.
s. Philip of Hallowell. O.C. 4 February 1836.
d. Hannah. O.C. 18 February 1836.

SHORTS, John
d. Mary, m. Casper Vandusen of Adolphustown. L.B. Cert. 23/5 Thurlow.

Osborne

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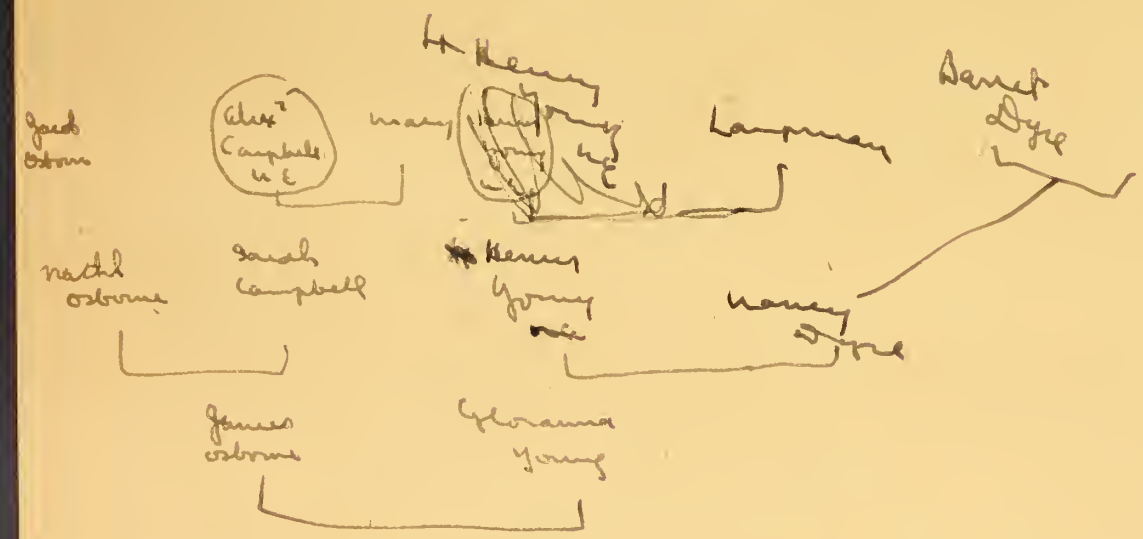
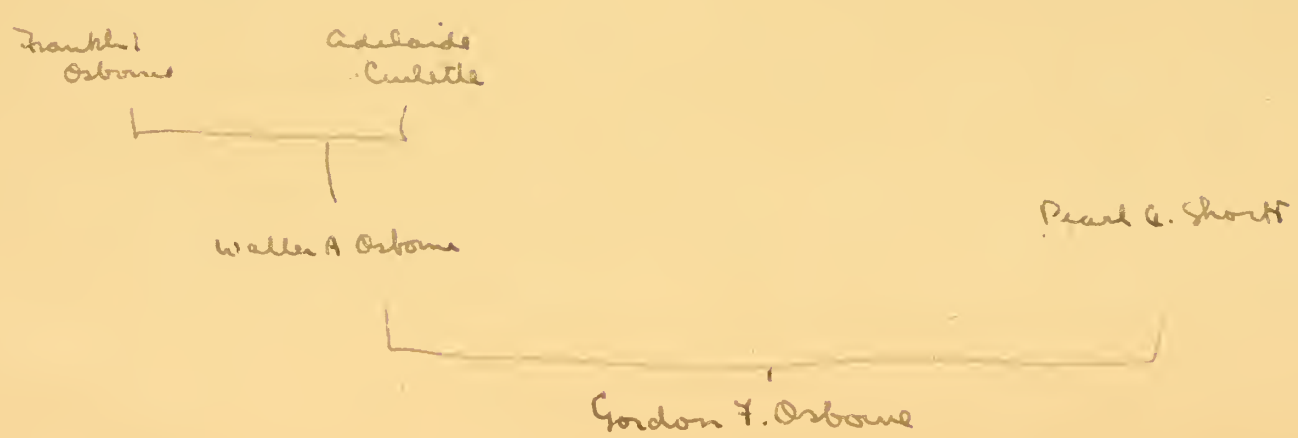
Not in R E List Ottawa

Nathan, of Bowen Salem, Westchester Co Yeoman





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The following narrative of events and family incidents was gleaned principally from my grandfather, Nathaniel Osborne, who became totally blind at the age of seventy-seven years,-from Sergt. John Lowe, his comrade during the war of 1812, who also became totally blind in his closing years, both of whom it became my duty when a boy to lead around in their visiting expeditions among old friends and neighbours,-from the late Rev. Dr. George Young of the Manitoba Methodist Conference, who was my first cousin, and from my own revered mother.

The writer was born September 10th, 1835, on what is known as "Hickory Highlands" on the borders of the Bay of Quinte, Prince Edward County. The district got its name on account of the number of hickory trees which grew in that region. In the early days many families were known to gather a store of from three to five bushels of hickory nuts for the winter season.

The Campbells of Adolphustown.

They named me after Lieut. Alexander Campbell of the 42nd Regiment (Black Watch), who was born at Inverary Castle, Scotland, and who emigrated with his family to the United States in 1756 and settled at Schenectady, N.Y.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary war he became a pronounced Royalist and after having his property confiscated and being imprisoned he was driven from the United States, reaching Montreal with his family, with all his belongings in a wagon, and settling at Beauport. (See Ontario Archives Second Report). In 1784 he came to Adolphustown with Capt. Grass's contingent, where he settled on lands granted to Royalists by the British Government. His family consisted of one son and seven daughters. His son, Archibald, was also of the age requisite to draw lands, settled on Lot 19, Con.5, and served as Township Clerk during 1795-6-7 and 8 inclusive. His son, Archibald, 2nd, was prominent in minicipal matters for many years. Another son, Alexander, was appointed second postmaster of Napanee, held that office and was a prominent merchant in Napanee for many years. He built the "Campbell House," also "Lorne Castle," a palatial private residence on the banks of the Napanee River, a short distance below the town. Gibbs Campbell, a grandson of Archibald, Sr., went to Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard some years ago, engaged in the whale fisheries and became wealthy. Archibald Campbell, Sr., died in 1849. At his funeral, which I attended, service was conducted by the Rev. John Black, an aged and eccentric but pious and highly respected old Methodist minister, known as "Uncle Johnny Black." He delivered his discourse standing in the doorway of the old mansion, while the groups of sorrowing friends and neighbours occupied the lawn in front.

Of the seven daughters of Alexander Campbell, Mary, the eldest, married the Hon. Thomas Ridout, who was Surveyor-General of Canada for many years. He had been a captive in the Shawnee Indian tribe of Ohio for several months. His son, Thos. G. Ridout, was appointed Deputy Assistant Commissary-General during the war of 1812 and later became cashier of the Bank of Upper Canada, holding this office for many years. Another son was George Ridout. Capt. J.G. Ridout, William and Donald are descendants. The late Lady Edgar, author of "Ten Years of Upper Canada in Peace and War," "Life of General Brock" (Makers of Canada Series), and "A Colonial Governor in Maryland" (Horatio Sharpe, 1753-1773) was a daughter of Com.-Gen. Thos. G. Ridout.

Annie married Wm. Radenhurst, Deputy Surveyor-General. His son, Lieut. Tom Radenhurst, was prominent in the war of 1812 and took part in the capture of the U.S. gumboats Scorpion and Tigress near St. Joseph's Island, Lake Huron. The late G.A. Radenhurst, Police Magistrate of Barrie, was a descendant.

Catharine married Capt. Grant, who was active in the war of 1812, but later retired to Scotland. Their sons were prominent lawyers in the pioneer days of Toronto. Miss Annie Grant, the last descendant of the family, died in that city a few years ago.

Jeanette became the bride of Elisha Miller, a staunch Royalist of the Capt. Grass contingent, who settled on Col. Young's allotment at East Lake, Prince Edward County. One of their sons was Rev. Gilbert Miller, who became missionary to the Indians at Coldwater and Couchiching in 1832. A grandson, Rev. J.W. Miller, became President of the Michigan Conference of the M.E. Church. Elisha attained the venerable age of ninety-six years.

Sarah (my grandmother) became the wife of Sergt.-Major Nathaniel Osborne, who was Master of Transportation during the relief expedition from Kingston to Mackinaw under command of Capt. Andrew Bulger during the war of 1812. One of his sons was Rev. John C. Osborne who, as a Methodist minister, rode the circuits of the wilderness in early days. Rev. H.S. Osborne of Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Toronto, is a grandson.

Elizabeth became the wife of Col. Hildebrand Valleau, a staunch Royalist and active veteran of the war of 1812. He achieved local fame by his activity in the Department of the Militia and in promoting the annual meetings at the training grounds at Grassy Point on His Majesty's birthday every fourth of June.

Fanny married Henry Davis, also of the Adolphustown Royalists, who fought in the war of 1812 as sergeant in the 29th Regiment, the members of whose large family became active and prominent in the municipal affairs of the township, holding the highest offices. Mr. Allan R. Davis of Toronto, a writer, and author of the "Old Loyalist," is a descendant of the family.

Thus far I have used the term "Royalist," as the title "United Empire Loyalist" (U.E.L.) was not conferred until a meeting of the Legislative Council held under Lord Dorchester in 1789.

The Youngs of Prince Edward County.

My mother's name was Gloranna Young, second daughter of Lieut. Henry Young, who served as Ensign in Sir John Johnson's regiment during the Revolutionary war. On his retirement at the close of the war he was promoted to the rank of Major in the Militia. A patriotic Canadian and U.E. Loyalist, he was again called to arms on the outbreak of the war of 1812, and as lieutenant raised a company in Prince Edward County, with which he proceeded to Kingston, but he was soon stricken with disease and died in the Military Hospital there in December of the same year. According to the Report of the Canadian Archives for 1905, Lieut. Henry Young of the Provincial Corps was granted two thousand acres of land for services, and as a U.E. Loyalist, but never received any.

Of the ancestry of the Youngs, Guy Henry Young, the Lieutenant's grandfather, who was born in Wellington, Nottinghamshire, Eng., and after emigrating to Long Island, N.Y., married a Scottish girl named Robinson, and two sons, George and Henry, were born. Two more sons, William and John, and two daughters, were born at Husack, N.Y., and here he spent the residue of his days, dying at the venerable age of ninety-three. Of his family, John died in infancy. William learned surveying, became a civil engineer and was one of a staff who surveyed the islands of Lake Ontario and made the first surveys of the Erie Canal. He became Gen. Wm.C. Young and died in New York City at the ripe age of ninety-four, about the year 1780. One daughter married Lampman, a relative of our Canadian poet. Another daughter Gloranna, married Jonathan Odell, the founder of Odelltown, Que., which obtained some notoriety in the war of 1812.

Henry, the second son, who was born March 10th, 1737, joined the British Army and served during the French and Indian wars. He received his discharge in 1761 and, returning to Husack, married Miss Mary Fletcher, a lady of Spanish extraction. Her father was a slave holder, carrying on extensive farming operations on the Patroon lands of the Vanrenselaer Estate. The mansion house of this estate, which was once the headquarters of Gen. Abercrombie, where tradition says "Yankee Doodle" was composed in derision of the rebel army, is still standing opposite Albany, N.Y. By this union with Miss Fletcher, Henry had two sons, Daniel and Henry, and of his four daughters, Sarah married John Millar. When the Revolutionary war broke out, Henry again joined the British forces. His last commission was dated November 16th, 1781. During the war he was wounded but once, slightly, in the lower side of his right hand. In the meantime his home at Husack had been raided by the rebels and stipped of everything, even the old Bible with the family record was carried away, and his eldest son, Daniel, lived with his grandfather Fletcher.

Young Daniel, when in his teens, determined to run away and find his father. He entrusted the secret to one of the Negroes, an old body servant of his grandmother's, and when a contingent of British scouts was near, the old darkey secretly provided him with a kit of supplies. He joined the scouts, and after suffering hardships from want of food and the menace of roving Indian bands, reached his father at Oswego. He enlisted with the British forces at once, learned military engineering and became Major Daniel Young. The remainder of the family continued to reside near their former home until the close of the war, when with the first contingent to leave New York they journeyed to St. John, New Brunswick.

In 1780, Col. Henry Young was sent to Carleton Island with Major Ross to make some surveys and to build a fort. The party made preparations for erecting a fortification, the lines of which, it is said, are still prlainly visible. Landing at a small inlet north of Cedar Island, Col. Henry Young was the first of the company to go on shore, and the fort was duly buklt in 1783 at Kingston, whither the British post at Carleton Island was soon moved.

Lieut. Henry, his second son, fought in several engagements in the revolutionary war, and on his retirement was promoted Major in the Militia. He helped build the first log cabin and accompanied his father in breaking the way for settlement in Prince Edward County.

As soon as Col. Young received the grant of land, he invited a brother officer, Lieut. McCartney, to accompany him and his son, Daniel. They set out and coasted up the Bay of Quinte to where Picton now stands. They landed at the foot of the hill on which Mt. Olivet cemetery is now situated. Here they left their canoe, and, packing their supplies, followed the Indian trail through what is now beautiful Glenwood Cemetery till they reached the summit of the escarpment at a point where Lake on the Mountain, Bay of Quinte and East Lake come into view. They continued westward across the forests of Hallowell and Athol townships and reached the head of East Lake at the "Indian Landing." Here they turned southward and followed the southern shore of East Lake, emerging at its outlet into Lake Ontario, amid sand dunes and groves of beautiful cedar, spruce and balsam. The two adventurers removed their shoes and stockings and waded across the outlet, then followed the beach to the north corner of West Point Cove, where they built a hut of cedar boughs and in this shelter spent the night. Next morning, steering toward the north-west, they reached the sand dunes of West Point and following West Lake Beach, crossing the outlet, reaching the present site of Wellington, where they again built a hut of cedar boughs, kindled their camp fire and spent the second night. Next morning they journeyed eastward along the north shore of West Lake, and at the point where that Lake nears the present site of Bloomfield, the explorers turned south toward East Lake, and regained the outward trail of the previous days, which led them back to where they had left their canoe. Finding the forests of Prince Edward County abounding with deer and other game and the takes affording a plentiful supply of fish, the tall native woods and the dense forest indicating fertility of the soil, Col. Young chose a tract of land on the north side of East Lake for his future home, some five or six miles from the present site of the town of Picton. Having chosen the site, he now returned to Cataraqui for supplied, and immediately sent to St. John for his second son, Henry, who made his way to Kingston. In September, Col. Young procured a large boat, loaded it with needed supplies, and with his two sons, Daniel and Henry, paddled up the Bay, landing at the same place as on the previous trip. They cadged their supplies over the "Carrying Place" to the Indian Landing at the head of East Lake. Here they built a large canoe and with their supplies voyaged along the north shore of the lake for about four miles, landing at "Young's Homestead," now in possession of Mr. Malcolm Parks. Here they began a clearing and erected their first log cabin. This being completed, Col. Young, leaving his two sons, Daniel and Henry, to the mercies of a Canadian winter in the forest, and to proceed with needed improvements, returned to Carataqui and joined his family at St. John during the winter. The following spring Col. Young and the family hourneyed from St. John to Cataraqui. Leaving his four daughters at Fredericksburgh, he came on to Prince Edward County and to his intense joy found his two sons alive and well.

The summer was spent in clearing the land and making further improvements, and in October of 1784, he brought his daughters and established his family in their forest home. It will thus be seen that Col. Henry Young was the first w ite man who came to Prince Edward County and built the first house in the county. He and his descendants have played a large part in shaping the destiny and promoting the development of the County. It is interesting to note that the remains of these veterans are reposing on the pioneer trails which they followed when seeking homes one hundred and forty years ago; namely, at the foot of beautiful Glenwood cemetery in Picton repose the remains of Lieut. Henry Young, who died in 1812, in the family plot beneath a monument of appropriate design and suitably inscribed; while the remains of Col. Henry Young, who died in 1820, and those of Major Daniel Young, who died in 1850, rest side by side in the cemetery at Cherry Valley, not far from the site where they erected the rude log cabin of pioneer days. The original homestead of Col. Henry Young is still retained by direct descendants of Col. Young's family, being at present in possession of Mr. Malcolm Parks, lineal descendant of the sixth generation.

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Major Daniel Young, Col. Henry's eldest son, married Dorcas Conger, daughter of the U.E.L. pioneer who built Conger's mill, near Picton. Of this union were bornnine children. He settled at East Lake, near the old homestead, and died in 1850, aged 85 years.

Lieut. Henry Young, my maternal grandfather, who was in Sir John Johnson's regiment in the revolutionary war, was born at Husack, N.Y. After settlement in Prince Edward County, he married Nancy Dyer, daughter of Squire William Dyer, a pronounced U.E. Loyalist, whose property had been confiscated, his dwelling, barns and cattle burned, and his family banished from the United States. It was commonly reported that the rebels were in the habit of probing among the ashes and refuse of his burned buildings, remarking "here are the bones of old Bill Dyer", under the mistaken belief that he also had been consumed. But he had eluded them, and afterwards settled at East Lake. Lieut. Henry Young later inherited the homestead of his father at East Lake. Here a family of four sons, viz.: George, the father of the late Dr. George Young, Richard, William and Capt. John, and his two daughters, Mary and Gloranna, were born to him. He was again called to the service of his country in the war of 1812, but was cut off prematurely by illness in the Kingston Military Hospital.

When Edward, Duke of Kent, visited Upper Canada in 1792, and went as far as Niagara on this visit, in August, he made a call at Smith's Bay and met Col. Hildebrand Valleau, Lieut. Henry Young, and the other leading men of the settlement. This county had been named after him in Governor Simcoe's proclamation of July 16 in that year, dividing Upper Canada into counties.

The Osbornes of Sophiasburgh

The Osbornes were of English extraction. The first of the name to migrate to America, and the founder of the New England branch of the family, was Richard Osborne, of London, who came with the Pilgrim Fathers and settled at Windsor, Connecticut, where the name is still perpetuated. Branches of this family migrated to Ridgefield, Bergen County, New Jersey, where Jacobus Osborne, my great-grandfather, and four of his sons, Nathaniel, Richard, William, and Nehemiah, were born. Mrs. Maude Benson, the Canadian writer, has in her possession a pewter platter which was given to her by Jerome Osborne, of Osborne Hill, Herkimer County, N.Y. He claimed it was brought from London by this Richard Osborne, and from Connecticut by Rev. Amos Osborne, his grandfather, when this branch struck out into the New York wilderness.

In course of time, Jacobus Osborne and family migrated to Fulton County, New York, where another son, Jacobus, and two daughters, Abigail and Mary, were born. In common with other Loyalists, the family resolved to avail themselves of the British offer of lands and seek new homes in the Canadian wilderness. In 1785 they procured a Schenectady boat on which they loaded household goods and supplies, and from Johnstown voyaged up the Mohawk river, then up one of the smaller tributaries and portaged ten miles to the head waters of the Oswego River. My grandfather often told me that in going up these rapids the boat got out of their control when they were almost at the top, and slipping back, went all the way to the bottom of the rapids, and they had to do their work over again, although they were very tired. Then they passed down the Oswego River into Lake Ontario, then following the shore, reached Kingston; thence up the Bay of Quinte, rounding Thompson's Point to the eastward and landing on the north shore of the Long Reach in the township of Sophiasburgh. Here they camped for the first, and subsequent, nights under the shelter of a maple until their first cabin was built. I knew the spot well, my grandfather having frequently pointed out the landing-place--a rare bit of smooth, gravelly beach, and the maple under whose grateful shade I had often gambolled in my boyhood days. The location was an ideal one, attractive and wisely chosen. The escarpment of hills fronting the highlands of Sophiasburgh and skirting the north shore of the Long Reach, clothed from top to base in a forest of oaks and maples, sweeps back in a curve, enclosing a small but level plain, a miniature table land, studded here and there with groups of maples, sloping gently to the water's edge, the scene presented to the weary voyageurs a haven of refuge. Such was their introduction to the wilds of Canada, the scene of their future pioneer struggles, and here they pitched their tents. Having pre-empted a block of 400 acres in the first concession of Sophiasburgh, Lots 37, 38, 39 and 40, including that on which they had encamped, they built their temporary long cabin and began the task of hewing out a home.

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Sophiasburgh and The Roblin Families

Sophiasburgh, long known as the Sixth Town, commemorates the name of Sophia, twelfth child and daughter of King George III. This township was settled by many U.E. Loyalists who came in response to Governor Simcoe's proclamation of February 7, 1792, but large numbers of U.E. Loyalists, who had come with Major VanAlstine's party to Adolphustown, later made their homes in Sophiasburgh. Grants of 200 acres of land were given to all who had borne arms in the British cause. It is said that many families on landing placed guns in the hands of their children in order to qualify for receiving grants. In this way extensive land grants were made in Sophiasburgh to Loyalists, who had located in Adophustown, but which were never claimed, and rich holdings were often sold for a mere trifle, as Sophiasburgh was considered at that time to be a backwoods region.

The Roblin family came from New Jersey. Two brothers, John and Stephen, bore arms in the British cause, and John received a wound in his knee which crippled him for life. Both brothers and their families, Owen Roblin, Sr., and Jr., were with Major VanAlstine's party when they landed in Adophustown, the 16th of June, 1784. John died soon after from the wound in his knee. His widow and family moved to Sophiasburgh in 1817, where she purchased 100 acres which included "Princess Sophia's Ravine," and a prospective mill site for $35,

and built her own log house, paying for the whole in weaving, which must have been a severe task, more particularly on one of those old-time primitive hand looms. Mrs. Maude Benson, the Canadian writer, designates her, "Grand Old Pioneer Mother." "Princess Sophia's Ravine" is a historic gorge in Sophiasburgh on the Long Reach, about eight miles east of Picton, commonly known as Roblin's Mills, but so named in distinction to another Roblin's Mills in Ameliasburgh, built later by Owen Roblin, of the same family. Following closely on Widow Roblin's advent to "Princess Sophia's Ravine," Jesse Potter, another New Jersey U.E. Loyalist, came to Sophiasburgh, settling on the lot next to the Widow Roblin's west of the Ravine. Meantime, settlement increasing, the nearest mills being at Napanee and Congers, viz., at the two ends of the Long Reach, the demand for bread stuffs became very urgent. In 1817 the enterprising Widow Roblin built a small grist mill located about half way down the Ravine, an unpretentious log structure, with one run of stones. For a number of years the mill was patronized to its capacity, and filled a great want in the neighbourhood. The old mill was used latterly as a cooper's shop, and was still standing in 1843, but finally disappeared, and even the situation had been forgotten. Later, when the site was pointed out by myself, the only person living who could confirm the location was the late Jas. P. Roblin (father of Sir Redmond P. Roblin), who died at the venerable age of ninety-two. On the death of Widow Roblin, she left this valuable property and desirable situation to her son, Philip Roblin, Sr., who inherited much of his mother's energy. After her death, Philip discarded the old log house and built a handsome frame residence. He also built the second grist mill, a more pretentious frame structure, with two run of stones, and adequate equipment, a few yards further down stream than the old log mill. This was the beginning of a rapidly increasing patronage which continued until Philip, Sr., died, leaving five sons, Philip Jr., Owen, Jr., Levi, John P., and Caleb, and three daughters, Phoebe, who married Mr. Rogers and settled in Whitby, Mary, who married Wm. Pont, who died soon after, and Keziah, who married Squire George Drury in Sophiasburgh. Philip Jr., inherited the homestead and estate; John P. was elected M.P.P., and for years held a prominent position in the Upper Canada Legislature; Caleb was drowned while crossing the ice from Marshfront to the Indian Reserve; Owen Roblin, Jr., built the mill in Ameliasburgh, long known as Seventh Town.

The power dam of the mills at "Princess Sophia's Ravine" was located entirely on the adjoining farm of Jesse Potter, the western corner of the dam approaching within four feet of Mr. Potter's barn and flooding a large area of his reserve woodlands. In consequence there were bitter contentions and annual lawsuits between Mr. Potter and Philip Roblin, Sr., which continued many years, but which proved futile, and Mr. Roblin succeeded in maintaining his mill privileges. Finally these rivalries ceased, when Philip Roblin, Sr., passed away at a ripe old age, and a large concourse of friends and neighbours saw his remains carried from the old red mansion to the little cemetery on the hillside, of which event I have a recollection as a witness. Jesse Potter soon followed, at the advanced age of eighty-three years, which event also I remember. Standing beside the coffin, I was just tall enough to see his stern and pallid features over the edge of the coffin.

The former rivals are now quietly reposing side by side, each in his narrow bed, which was once his own property, not by design, but because the little cemetery is just on the line between the two farms, at the foot of the Ravine, near the Bay.

On the decease of Philip Roblin, Sr., Philip, Jr., his son, who died in 1899, inherited the estate and succeeded to the business. Soon after his father's death he built the third grist millat the head of the Ravine, near the bridge where the road crosses,--a fine, three storey modern structure, with over-shot water wheel, seventeen feet in diameter, with three run of stones. He also e rected a large storehouse just across the road, which was ultimately connected with the mill by an overhead gangway. He likewise added a complete saw mill equipment to the lower mill, operated by both steam and water power, and in various ways enlarged and increased it till the milling business here expanded to one of the most extensive in Canada. Large consignments of flour were for many years shipped regularly from these mills to foreign lands, until Roblin's Mills became for a time a leading commercial centre in the country, and a considerable lake depot, with storehouses, shops and docks for convenience of shipping.

Levi Roblin, one of the brothers previously mentioned, built a saw mill at the foot of the Ravine near the Bay, and likewise a private residence. The former was equipped with an old-fashioned upright saw, worked by a water wheel and crank, and which for many years did the principal share of custom sawing, and was the only saw mill in an extensive region. Its persistent measured

beats were an object of interest to youthful eyes that watched its movements by the hour.

The only approach to the little cemetery from the east was under the flume of the saw mill, then over the brook and up the hillside. On numerous occasions it has been my melancholy privilege to witness funeral processions bearing their precious burden with trembling footsteps, carefully choose boulders in crossing the stream, and then make their way up the hillside to the cemetery. Originally a private burial plot, the first to occupy a place in this primitive hillside cemetery was Widow Roblin, with her sons, grandsons and numerous family relatives, each grave marked by a suitable monument. In time, however, it became a general burial place for the neighbourhood, and many of the early inhabitants in a widely extended area found a final resting-place in this sequestered and romantic abode of the dead.

I visited the familiar scene in 1914, and to my amazement the Ravine had become literally a desert. Where once stood three grist mills, two saw mills, two private residences, a merchant's shop, an extensive storehouse and dock, all have been dismantled and not a vestige remains. The fine millat the head of the Ravine has entirely disappeared,—not even a stone of the foundation remains; in fact none of the locations can be discerned except by those familiar with the former site. The dam is obliterated, and the ground devoted to grain crops. Where once were witnessed scenes of industry and commercial prosperity, nothing remains to awaken the memory but "beetling cliffs, a hillside cemetery and a purling brook." One is forcibly reminded of Macaulay's New Zealander, seated on a broken arch of London Bridge, surveying the ruins of a city.

Bay of Quinte Ferries

At the extreme southwesterly point of Adolphustown, the Bay of Quinte is quite narrow, and from the point across to the Stone Mills, built by Major VanAlstine in Marysburgh, and the Lake on the Mountain, just above the mills, a ferry has been maintained from the earliest times, or since the mills were built. Below the point, toward Glen Island and Kingston, the Bay is known as the Adolphustown Reach. From Picton eastward along the Sophiasburgh shore, extending beyond Green Point toward Deseronto,—a stretch of about twenty miles, the Bay gets the name of the Long Reach.

Likewise, between Thompson's Point and Nicholas Wessel's farm on the Sophiasburgh shore, in the early years, a ferry was maintained for some time called Wessel's Ferry. The roadway up the long steep hill from the landing terminated in a spacious lawn, about an acre in extent, on which at one time stood a handsome frame church, painted white, capable of holding about four hundred people, and known as Wessel's Church, of the Methodist Episcopal denomination. Among certain money grants to Sophiasburgh in 1820, it is on record that a grant of $100 was appropriated toward opening a road from Wessel's Ferry through to Demorestville Mills. A quarterly communion service held in 1844, attended by an unusually large congregation, when the Rev. George Jones preached a sermon from that well-known text in which Job's wife offers her husband a peculiar, if not sarcastic, word of consolation, was about the last gathering held in the historic Wessel's Church, which has since been dismantled and torn down, leaving neither stick nor stone, and not even a trace of the foundation. It is just a grassy plain flanked by a beautiful grove; nought else remains to show that a sacred edifice had once stood on the deserted plain.

About a mile farther east on the same shore in Scanlon's Ferry, for years maintained to cross at the junction of Hay Bay and the Long Reach. At the landing was a commodious warehouse, while the roadway up the steep bank terminated in Scanlon's general store on the brow of the hill, where a considerable country trade was transacted in the early days. The erection of the warehouse at the landing, the foundations of which extended partly over the water, furnished a drama of considerable interest to the community for a long period afterward. I often heard my father and my grandfather describe the incident. They were present at the "raising", with a large concourse of men, and among them was a character known as "Devil" Tom Dorland. He was not really a bad man, but had a reputation for doing eccentric and risky tricks. When the men had raised the outer heavy plate to its position on the main posts, it was found to be wrong end on, and had to be turned. The plate was balanced on the centre post preparatory to being swung, when "Devil" Tom insisted on getting astride one end of the big plate, and in that perilous position, sixty feet above the water, he swung around with the plate to the consternation of the crowd. The ware-

house has long been dismantled, and every vestige of it has vanished. Not a stone of the foundation remains to show its former site. Portions of the masonry which formed the artificial roadway up the steep bank have become disintegrated, and are rapidly crumbling away and sliding down the embankment.

Another ferry, half a mile farther east, was Hazzard's Ferry, maintained intermittently across the Long Reach to the Hay Bay shore. Here also was Hazzard's sawmill, worked by a somewhat puny water power.

One and a half miles still farther east is "Princess Sophia's Ravine", or Roblin's Ferry, crossing the Long Reach to Casey's Point, and maintained since 1817.

Two miles farther east, on Lot No. 43, is Clark's Ferry, or Clark's Crossing originally known as "Job Bower's Ferry and Potashery Works," maintained since 1785. It was called Clark's Ferry after a family of that name, living on the Adolphustown side. It was long known as Bedford's Ferry, from a man who kept a store on the Sophiasburgh side. Bedford moved to Belleville, and was succeeded by Munroe, when for some time it was called Munroe's Ferry. Of late years it has been known as Cole's Ferry.

Military Activities of the Earliest Years.

In memory of the military projects of Kingston in its early days, on this occasion of the city's 250th anniversary, I recall my numerous military ancestors by way of contrast with public affairs of the present day, and their frequent and intimate connection with those projects,--two great grandfathers, Col. Henry Young, who built Fort Henry, and Lieut. Alexander Campbell, who came with Capt. Grass' first contingent of settlers; one great-uncle, Major Daniel Young, military engineer, 1780-85; and two grandfathers, Lieut. Henry Young, who died in Kingston military hospital, December, 1812, and Sergeant Major Nathaniel Osborne, who was master of transportation in the Kingston-Mackinaw relief expedition, 1814.

Sergeant Major Nathaniel Osborne, my grandfather, and Sergeant John Lowe told me of many incidents in the war times of 1812-14. While serving with his company, and doing garrison duty awaiting orders, Sergeant Major Osborne was an actor in an amusing but pathetic incident, illustrative of war-time privations, which soldiers are often compelled to undergo. Sergeant Lowe said that on one occasion the garrison grew short of provisions, supplies having failed, through some mishap, to come to hand. In this extremity, the garrison officer one morning sent out Sergeant Lowe with a squad to forage for something to eat. They went up among the cedars which at that time covered the site of Frontenac Park of the present day, used even then as a military cemetery, and found the skeleton of a horse,--nothing left but the bones. Securing the head, they took it down to the barracks, put it into the big cauldron and made a good pot of soup, which everyone relished, as they had been on short rations. It was a fortunate relief; Sergeant Lowe remarked that it was "the sweetest morsel he had ever tasted," and my grandfather confirmed the story.

The expedition for the relief of Mackinaw left Kingston, after due preparation, in the latter part of March, 1814. It consisted of a contingent of one hundred and sixty picked men, with twenty artillerymen and twenty men of the Royal Navy, all under the command of Lieut.-Col. Robert McDouall, with Capt. Andrew Bulger in subordinate command. They proceeded by the Danforth Road, through Ernesttown, Bath, Fredericksburgh and Adolphustown, halting for three nights in the latter settlement, where the soldiers found quarters in the old Quaker meeting-house, a building that has disappeared. Here was the home of Lieut. Alexander Campbell, grandfather of the commissary, Thomas G. Ridout, whose mother was Mary Campbell. From Adolphustown the contingent crossed the Bay of Quinte at Job Bower's Ferry, known later as Clark's Crossing, climbed the long hill of the Sophiasburgh escarpment, and halted for the night at the home of the transportation master, Sergeant-Major Nathaniel Osborne, a pioneer log house of eighteen by twenty-one feet, on Lot No. 37. The heavy chest of gold coins and other valuables was placed in the middle of the floor, in front of the open fireplace, and the soldiers stretched about on the floor to sleep, the commissary, whose uncle owned the house, occupying the only bed in the room, while the family climbed a rude ladder to the loft and slept on straw. Often I have heard my grandfather tell how the officers played cards on the chest of treasure through the whole night, while the rank and file either slept on the floor in front of the blazing fire, or camped in tents outside. The expedition started next morning, and had reached "Princess Sophia's Ravine" or Roblin's Gorge, about a mile westward, when something went wrong with the drawing gear of the team of horses driven by Adam

Shortt. Getting too near the ravine, the entire load--team, driver and all--tumbled over into the Gorge, killing one of the horses and breaking one knee-cap of the driver.

The contingent succeeded in mounting the famous Benson's Hill, which proved to be a difficult task, as the hill was not then what it is now. In due time they reached Pleasant Bay, and halted for one night at the home of Richard Osborne, one of the contingent, west of Wellington, whose house was used as a headquarters during the war. From here they passed on to the Carrying Place, where they camped another night in two feet of snow. During the night my grandfather awoke, and hearing something like water trickling in the snow, he investigated and found that one of the soldiers had crawled into the shadow of one of the barrels of rum, tapped it, got all he wanted, then either lost the plug or forgot to replace it, and left the rum running.

One of the "Graves of a Household".

Many persons are familiar with the pathetic verses by Mrs. Hemans, bearing the above title, but it seems not to be so generally known that in the poem she is describing the graves of her own brothers and sister. When this is known, it adds much additional pathos to the verses.

The verse of interest to Canadians reeds thus:-

" One, 'midst the forests of the West,
By a dark stream is laid, --
The Indian knows his place of rest,
Far in the cedar-shade."

The grave is that of her brother, Major Claude Browne, who died in Kingston several years before her own death in 1835. There is a reference to Major Browne's grave in the Toronto Saturday Globe of November 22, 1902, in a sketch by Leman A. Guild, in which he locates it in Frontenac Park, Kingston. He omitted in his sketch to say that Frontenac Park was first used as a military cemetery, and was originally covered with a dense grove of cedar trees. (There are, however, signs of a stream only at the lower, or St. Paul's cemetery, where many soldiers were also buried.) In my boyhood days I was fairly familiar with Old Kingston, and seventy-five years ago the cedar grove was still there. It was also my privilege to meet at Fort Erie, fifty-five years ago, the second son of Mrs. Hemans, the poetess, Mr. Claude Hemans, who was then British Consul at Buffalo, N.Y., and, having received several threatening letters about the time of the Fenian Raid, thought it advisable to take up his residence at Fort Erie, wherehe lived ina large house at the corner of Queen and Niagara streets, which was afterward converted into the Queen's Hotel.

2

Osborne

Osborne, Abigail wts 4.10.27.1793, 1.5.1794 soph spr = Jacob Beneke soph bn 11.16.1795

Nathaniel wts 11.16.1795

Mary wts 11.16.1795

U.E. List – supp

Nathaniel Soldier Loyal Rangers.

Loy Claim rewliness – nil

P.B.Q

Richard p. 616

St. George's

nil

L.B.O.

Mary Sumpour 7.25.97 als Osburn. Praying Lds as U.E. Rec 200 as U.E. (O K))

Alice 4.9.98 Praying Lds. as dau. of U.E. Rec 200.

Hald Pap (May/41)

Alex 166.46
Israel 166.46

Gen Ret of Ref. Loy. excl. of those grant. at Up. Posts

Alex self from U.S. farmer

Israel " " " "

Halt 162.9.166.64

Ret. of Artificers &c in Capt Whites Co. of Loyalists

Nath Osborn

Gen Ret of Ref Loy excl of those grant at Up. Posts

Nath Osborn self from Vt. laborer KRRNY?

1

Hemans 2
Hazzard 3

Robbin 3.4.5.6
Ridout 3.10
Rogers 5
Ross 8
Robinson 9
Radenhurst 10

Bensche 1
Benson 2.5.6 7
Browne 2
Bower 3²
Bedford 3
Bulger 3.9
Black 10

Jones 4

Shortt 2.
Scanlon 4
Shorts 6.7

Lowe 3.10
Lampman 9

Clark 3²
Cole 3
Campbell 3.6.10
Conger 5.7
Cronk 6

McCartney 8
McDonald 3

Thompson 4.7
Trumpour 1

Munro 3
Millar 9
Miller 10

Davis 9
Dorland 4
Drury 5
Dyer 7

Vanblistine 4.6
Valleau 7.9

Wessel 4

Edgar 10

Fletcher 9

Odell 9

Guild 2
Grass 3.10
Grant 10

Potter 5
Port 5
Parks 8

Young 3.7.8.9.10